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DEC 27 2006

Appl. No.: 10/524,710

Amdt. Dated December 27, 2006

Response to Office Action Mailed October 5, 2006

REMARKS:

Applicant appreciates the time and care the examiner has taken in examining the application. Applicant requests reconsideration of the rejection of the claims, and states the following in support.

Amended claim 1 recites that the first projecting parts have guiding surfaces to guide the outsides of the leg portions and restrict the broadening of leading ends of the leg portions when the leg portions of the staple pass through the bundle of papers.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that *Kuhns* discloses the first projecting parts at the outside edges of 56, 58 provided at the opposite end portions of the blade edge 24', and the second projecting parts at the inner edges of 56, 58 provided at the opposite end portions of the blade edge 24'. The Examiner also indicates that *Ohmae* discloses the first projecting parts 17 and 19 provided at the opposite end portions of the blade edge and the second projecting parts provided between the first projecting parts.

However, these cited references fail to teach or suggest the guiding surface provided on the first projecting parts, which is configured to guide the outsides of the leg portions, and to restrict the broadening of leading ends of the leg portions when the leg portions of the staple pass through the bundle of papers.

Consequently, it is submitted that amended claim 1 and dependent claims thereon are patentable over the cited references.

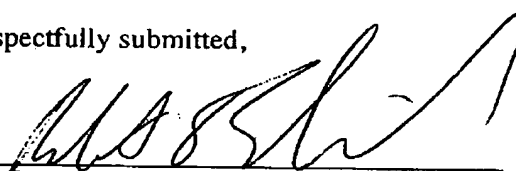
It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for prompt allowance and that all of the objections, rejections and requirements raised in the Office action have been met. Early, favorable treatment of this application is requested.

The examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned with any questions or comments so that efforts may be made to resolve any remaining issues.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any necessary fees, or credit any overpayment, associated with this communication, including fees for any necessary extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136(a) for filling this communication, which extension is hereby requested, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0305 of Chapman and Cutler LLP.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



Robert J. Schneider, Reg. No. 27,383

Date: December 27, 2006
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Attorney Docket Number: 1716299
App. Serial No.: 10/524,710
Date of Facsimile Transmission: December 27, 2006
Transmitted to Facsimile No.: 1-571-273-8300

I hereby certify that the attached correspondence, namely: Response to Office Action, was transmitted by facsimile on the date listed above, to the U.S. Patent Office at the facsimile number listed above, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8.

Signature: Brenda A. Walton

Typed Name of Person Signing this Certificate: Brenda A. Walton

Date of Signature: December 27, 2006